

REMARKS

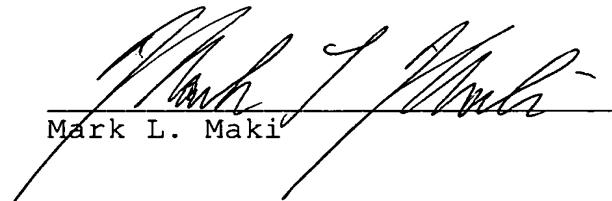
The claims are currently rejected over US Patent No. 6 655 843 B2 (Suzuki). The '843 patent has a Section 102(e) effective date of November 25, 2002. However, the present application has a foreign priority date of June 27, 2002, which priority date is claimed in the original application transmittal letter and predates the effective date of the '843 patent.

To perfect the priority claim to the JP priority application, Applicant herewith submits a certified English translation of Japanese Patent Application No. 2002-187755 filed June 27, 2002. Accordingly, withdrawal of the current rejection based upon the '843 patent is requested.

The rejection is now moot, although Claim 1 is voluntarily replaced with new Claim 10. Claim 10 maintains a similar scope of patent protection and consideration of this claim is requested. Claim 1 is cancelled, while the dependency of Claims 2-5 is amended to depend from Claim 10. Additional conforming amendments are made to Claims 4 and 5.

The application is believed in condition for allowance and action to that effect is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Mark L. Maki

MLM/mag/ad

FLYNN, THIEL, BOUTELL  
& TANIS, P.C.  
2026 Rambling Road  
Kalamazoo, MI 49008-1631  
Phone: (269) 381-1156  
Fax: (269) 381-5465

Dale H. Thiel	Reg. No. 24 323
David G. Boutell	Reg. No. 25 072
Terryence F. Chapman	Reg. No. 32 549
Mark L. Maki	Reg. No. 36 589
Liane L. Churney	Reg. No. 40 694
Brian R. Tumm	Reg. No. 36 328
Steven R. Thiel	Reg. No. 53 685
Donald J. Wallace	Reg. No. 43 977
Kevin L. Pontius	Reg. No. 37 512
Sidney B. Williams, Jr.	Reg. No. 24 949

Encl: Postal Card

136.07/05